

Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Friday, June 24, 2022

12:00-5:00pm

Virginia Humanities

946 Grady Ave, Suite 100

Charlottesville, VA 22903



VIRGINIA
LATINO
ADVISORY
BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Aranda	Edgar		Leiva	Manuel		Rimola	Sergio
Berry	Paul**		Luna-Jimenez	Max		Romero	Carmen**
Brown	Diana		Medina	Yahusef		Sanchezconcha	Lyons
De Silva	Joshua		Morales	Lourdes		Soto	Rodrigo
Espinoza	Juan		Pacheco	Aida		Watkins	Walewska
Guzmán	C. Alexander		Patterson	Diana		Williams	Cecilia
Kline-Gabel	Karina		Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria		Zelaya	Eduardo

***attended remotely via Zoom*

Administration's staff present: Suzanne Holland, Board Administrator

12:00 p.m. - Committee Breakout Sessions - Committee Chairs

Business, Civic Engagement & Social Justice, Education & Workforce, Health, and Housing

1:10 p.m. Welcome, Call Meeting to Order, Meeting Overview - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Greetings to guests, time to share any professional or personal updates

1:15 p.m. Review May Meeting Minutes & June Meeting Agenda - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Did not meet quorum for a vote to adopt agenda or approve minutes

1:16 p.m. Public Comment - Lyons Sanchezconcha Zelaya

No public comment

1:17 p.m. Administrative Update - Suzanne Holland

General Updates to Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Diversity, Opportunity and Inclusion Office Staffing Update

Governor's Fellow assigned to the appointments team. Utilize for research

Using vlab@virginia.governor.gov

1:22 p.m. Public Comment - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Returned to public comment

Frank Valdez, works with Youth Justice Program for LAJC. Also works with Latinx youth organization (Creciendo Juntos?). Thanks VLAB for the work of the Board. Big common issue with Latinx community is special education with English Language Learning, specifically students with autism and the difficulties of making a diagnosis with those populations. Creates challenges navigating school system and burden of disciplinary action against them. Concern with number of immigrants entering the foster care system– barriers for undocumented families being reunited with their children. Support for general wrap-around services for immigrant families integrated into the schools.

1:27 p.m. Administrative Update (continued) - Suzanne Holland

Return to Administrative Updates

Budget Updates

Request from the Governor to state universities to freeze tuition rates

Free speech on college campuses

Gas tax is not part of the signed budget

Violent Crime Task Force– local law enforcement agencies meeting with state officials. Suzanne has asked for better public input and community voices

Advisory Board Meeting Security– Disruptive event at a virtual meeting of the LGBTQ

Advisory Board Meeting . Secretary of the Commonwealth issued a letter condemning the hateful, disruptive actions at the meeting. Now utilizing Zoom after a review of security procedures, deemed most secure platform for virtual meetings. Admin also gathered all the

Advisory Board chairs to brief them. OAG working on guidance for online meetings in response.

Travel reimbursement

1:47 p.m. Listening Session Recap - Joshua DeSilva

Thank you to Max Luna for organizing the event with 45 attendees

Joshua, Lyons, Gloria and Max from VLAB all in attendance

Spanish-language event with translation available

Breakout groups that mirrored our working committees

Lyons provided introduction to VLAB and the recommendation process

Joshua provided summary of breakout group reports

2:00 p.m. Guest Speaker - Sergio Aguirre Poloche

Victims/Witness Assistance Specialist at Norfolk CA Office

Provided overview of Victims/Witness Assistance Program

Possible follow up items: Ask Virginia Victims Fund about Spanish speaking staff; advocate for state funding for victim advocacy programs in state Commonwealth Attorney's Offices

Protection of information of undocumented victims to prevent not reaching out due to fear

3:00 p.m. Break

3:16 p.m. Attorney General Update - Justin Bell

Update on ramifications of new budget to application of virtual meetings

FOIA and Meeting Guidelines are forthcoming. The FOIA Council is still in the process of drafting those guidelines and receiving feedback, encouraging members to participate in that process.

3:28 p.m. Committee Reports - Committee Chairs Present

Business - Diana Patterson

Revisit Enterprise and Opportunity Zones

Minimum wage increase– does not recommend increase to \$15 by 2025 due to impact on small business and considering labor shortages

Substantiating this with literature or research

Statutory requirements for when minimum wage kicks in

Support for SBSB

8.1% of small business owners are Latino, more entrepreneurs

Transforming the process so that it's accessible to more

Not enough Spanish speakers to assist as well

Inviting SBSB to a future Business Committee meeting

Construction companies and hospitality industry as most popular among the Latino community - making code components easier (available in Spanish)

DPOR Test only available in English

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Credential for ELL graduates as barrier

Housing Committee - Walewska Watkins & Alex Guzman

Three guest were invited to participate in their committee meeting today

Judy Chang - Shelter House in Northern Virginia

Krysta Aguilar - Shelter House in Northern Virginia

Kathleen Doyle - Charlottesville Public Schools

Shared lived experiences of the service providers and what they see in the field

77% of people captured in Fairfax County Point In Time Count are

Latinx

Looking at housing instability among Latino Youth

Health Committee - Cecilia Williams

Committee priorities and how to translate them into recommendations

1) Health literacy

2) Statewide Latino Health Assessment

3) Women's Health– how to respond to reversal of Roe v. Wade

4) Continuing education requirement for working with diverse populations

Next meeting will be a working meeting to refine recommendations

Education - Diana Brown

Did not meet today - No Updates

Yahusef Medina will serve as the new Chair of the Education Committee

Civic Engagement & Social Justice - Rodrigo Soto

Did not meet today - No Updates

Chair consideration to dissolve committee and turn into a work group

Committee Members would join other committees

Business, Education, Health, & Housing would each have 5

3:45 p.m. Board Discussion & New Business - Joshua DeSilva

Language Access Conversations

Looking at collaborations with Office of New Americans

Providing services in Spanish

Language Justice as a career and role for organizations

New Commissioner of Health made comments

Expressed doubts the structured disparities among race/ethnicity

What is VLAB's role in responding to this

Virginia Department of Health

Write this into the health committee report

Work for Secretariats (Health & Commonwealth) for support

If the committee pens a letter, we can send it on behalf of VLAB

Bi-lingual Pay Differential among various fields

How can you leverage being bilingual yourself

Bi-lingual preferred as a pay bump

4:33 p.m. Chair's Report - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Goals as Chair

Meeting Goals

Committees should meet before August 5th

VLAB Meetings are for convening and sharing/collaborating on work

Cross-Board Work

AAAB, LGBTQ+, AAB, Council on Women

Office of New American

Heightening VLAB's Work

Relationship with the Administration

Meeting with Secretary James

Office of DOI - Michael Perez

Advocacy

Legislation (veto)

Amendment 8

Accessibility & Representation

Priorities & Recommendations

Transitions

High expectations for talented new members

Press release comes out one week from today, July 1st

4:40 p.m. Farewell to Outgoing Members Thoughts & Remarks - Joshua DeSilva

Thank you to Max Luna

Served 8 months with VLAB

Present with gift of appreciation

Thank you to Gloria Rockhold-Peña

Served 8 years with VLAB

Present with gift of appreciation

Both will continue to serve as advisors to the board

4:49 p.m. Closing Remarks & Announcements - Lyons Sanchezconcha